



**Australian Army
Research Centre**

AARC SEMINAR SERIES 2018

China's interests in Melanesia: potential for accidental friction

Since 2014 Colonel Pete Connolly has researched in China, PNG, Timor-Leste and Fiji for a PhD investigating Chinese interests in Melanesia. He has sought to understand the deep complexity of Chinese economic, diplomatic and security interests on the ground, and how these interact with the interests of Pacific Islanders.

This presentation will give a brief overview of these Chinese interests, and then focus on the security implications of the Chinese presence in Melanesia, including the potential for unintended consequences.

Colonel Pete Connolly



Pete Connolly commanded an infantry platoon in Somalia, a rifle company in East Timor and a battle group in Afghanistan. He has worked in Parliament House, Sandhurst and the Pentagon, and researched in the fields of Strategy and International Relations. He is currently Director of the Australian Army Research Centre.

**Thursday
06 December 2018**

Time: 1230 - 1330

Venue: R1 Theatrette, Russell Offices

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